



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

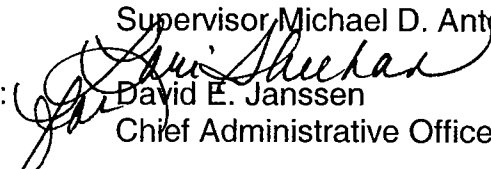
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

June 1, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:  David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**SACRAMENTO UPDATE**

**Assembly Hearing on PricewaterhouseCoopers Report**

On June 8, 2005, the Assembly Select Committee on the Los Angeles County Health Care Crisis, and the Assembly Committee on Health will convene a joint hearing entitled, "PricewaterhouseCoopers Monitoring and Audit of the Los Angeles County Public Health System," from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Room 447 of the State Capitol. Representatives from the Department of Health Services and my office are scheduled to participate in the hearing.

**Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**

**AB 1664 (Gordon)**, as amended on May 23, 2005, would permit voluntary disclosure of elder or dependent adult financial abuse by financial institutions, and require certain financial institutions to provide training to their employees regarding such abuse. It would also grant broad civil and criminal immunity to financial institutions and their officers, employees, and agents related to any financial abuse that is disclosed.

The District Attorney's Office (DA) indicates that voluntary reporting is already required under current law and that there is no need to supplement this section of law. However, because the immunity language in AB 1664 is so broadly drafted, once one employee discloses financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult, all employees and the financial institution would be immune from legal action for statements or testimony given in connection with that disclosure. If an employee lies in response to an investigation or commits perjury in court, they would be immunized from prosecution, which could

hinder the investigation and prosecution of elder abuse cases. The DA recommends that the County oppose AB 1664 unless amended to address the bill's overly broad immunity language, and to limit its scope to the employee training provisions, and we concur. Because this bill would undermine current Board policy to support the increase in the types of professions required to report suspected cases of elder abuse, **our Sacramento Advocates will oppose AB 1664.**

AB 1664 is sponsored by the California Bankers Association and supported by the California Association of Realtors, California Business Banking, California Credit Union League, California Mortgage Bankers Association, and Wells Fargo. It is opposed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, California State Association of Counties, California State Sheriffs' Association, County Welfare Directors Association of California, Consumer Attorneys of California, California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, and the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

AB 1664 passed the Assembly Floor on May 26, 2005 by a vote of 60 to 8, and now awaits committee assignment in the Senate.

#### **Status of County-Interest Legislation**

**County-supported if amended AB 109 (Chan)**, which would require county First 5 commissions to adopt policies and procedures regarding conflict of interest, contracting and procurement, employee salaries and benefits, and place limits on the amount of its operating budget that can be spent on administrative functions, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 26, 2005 by a vote of 13 to 4, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor. The County will continue to support AB 109 if amended to require stronger fiscal oversight by the State without affecting local control.

**County-supported AB 338 (Levine)**, which would require the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to use increasing amounts of crumb rubber from waste tires in State highway, construction, and repair projects, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 26, 2005 by a vote of 13 to 5, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported if amended AB 696 (Chu)**, which would: 1) replace the quarterly reporting in CalWORKs and Food Stamps with semi-annual reporting; 2) provide categorical eligibility to Food Stamp benefits for certain Medi-Cal participants; 3) simplify Food Stamp verification requirements; 4) require the State to seek a Federal waiver to exempt certain Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents from the three-month limit to Food Stamp benefits; and 5) eliminate the requirement to maintain a statewide fingerprint imaging system for use in connection with eligibility for CalWORKs, Food Stamps and General Assistance, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee, as amended, on May 27, 2005 by a vote of 13 to 5.

The bill was amended to: 1) make technical revisions to the Food Stamp application process; 2) allow eligible counties to opt out of the waiver to exempt certain Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents from the three-month limit to Food Stamp benefits; and 3) hold counties harmless from the Federal food stamp error rate penalties resulting from the implementation of categorical eligibility to Food Stamp benefits for certain Medi-Cal participants. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Floor. The County will continue to support AB 696 if amended to retain fingerprint imaging for CalWORKs cases and Food Stamp cases with General Assistance.

**County-supported AB 856 (Bass)**, which would extend the sunset date of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) from January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2011, add the Director of the Department of Conservation, or his or her designee, as a non-voting member of the BHC board, make changes pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and repeal the requirement that the BHC obtain and maintain liability, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee, as amended, on May 27, 2005 by a vote of 13 to 5. The amendments remove the provision which extended the sunset date of the BHC. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SB 57 (Alarcon)** passed the Senate Floor by a vote of 22 to 12 on June 1, 2005, and now moves to the Assembly. SB 57 would augment the Emergency Medical Services Fund by allowing counties to collect an additional \$2 penalty assessment on every \$10 penalty for all criminal offenses and moving violations.

**County-opposed SB 112 (Ortiz)**, which would change the formula used to calculate each county's share of total State Refugee Employment Social Services and Refugee Targeted Assistance Program funds, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with technical amendments on May 26, 2005, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported SB 148 (Scott)**, which would authorize local jurisdictions to apply new zoning regulations to pre-existing businesses which sell alcoholic beverages for off-site consumption, such as liquor stores, allow affected businesses up to six months to comply, and authorize local jurisdictions to allow longer time periods, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee, as amended, on May 27, 2005 by a vote of 8 to 5. The bill, which now proceeds to the Senate Floor, was amended to apply only to the Cities of Bakersfield and Pasadena pursuant to a four-year pilot project.

**County-supported SB 267 (Romero)** passed the Senate by a vote of 29 to 2, and now moves to the Assembly. SB 267 would restructure the Trauma Care Fund to require regional distribution of funds based on the statewide proportion of trauma care services provided in a region, repeal the requirement that trauma centers receive a minimum level of funding, and require the grants to be awarded on a competitive basis.

**County-supported SB 578 (Escutia)**, which would require a railroad corporation to promptly notify the Office of Emergency Services, the California Highway Patrol, and

designated county public safety agencies in an endangered area, of certain information relative to hazardous materials, and in certain events, of train and track locations, whether or not an accident or spill occurs, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 25, 2005, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported SJR 13 (Escutia)**, which would urge the President and Congress of the United States to amend the Federal Railroad Safety Act to increase authority of state and local governments to enact railroad safety regulations, providing greater protection for their residents from railroad derailments, hazardous materials spills, and highway-rail crossing accidents, as long as state enactments, rules, or regulations do not conflict with Federal law, and do not impose an unreasonable burden on interstate commerce, was set for hearing in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee on June 6, 2007.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
DW:MAL:JF:ib

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
        County Counsel  
        Local 660  
        All Department Heads  
        Legislative Strategist  
        Coalition of County Unions  
        California Contract Cities Association  
        Independent Cities Association  
        League of California Cities  
        City Managers Associations  
        Buddy Program Participants